

Wanderers defence holds Southall

Southall 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2

WYCOMBE'S tight and disciplined defence came out well on top in a highly entertaining Premier Mid-Week League game at Southall on Tuesday night, to give them another victory and keep them up with the pacesetters in the Floodlight League.

Two goals up at half-time through Horseman and Searle, Wycombe held firmly against a determined Southall onslaught after the interval.

The back four of Stephenson, Gale, Delaney and Baker gave their counterparts a lesson in compactness and tight marking, rarely giving the Southall attack a glimpse of the goal.

ALWAYS FAIR

Both sides tackled hard unremittingly, but almost always fairly and throughout Wycombe always had the edge in skill.

It looked as though they were going to overwhelm Southall taking the lead after only nine minutes. Hutchinson's floated a free-kick to Horseman who moved into an open space to chest the ball in.

Blunt had a shot touched over by goalkeeper Walker, but after that Southall steadied themselves and checked Wycombe's progress with a few dangerous raids of their own.

Play swung from end to end at frantic pace — at times it was too furious with players hurried into mistakes.

Southall seemed to be getting on top at this stage, but on the half hour Wycombe struck again. Southall's King, dominant in the air, messed-up a clearance and the ball ran to Horseman. A quick switch of play and Searle was through; his shot hit the under-side of the bar and came up again, but with a linesman on the spot referee Markham had no hesitation in awarding the goal.

BRAVE DIVE

Southall's substitute Harrington came on for Cruisey in the second half and almost scored — only a brave dive at his feet by O'Brien kept the Southall score sheet blank.

O'Brien made two more blind-ing saves, from inside forwards Sidey and Martin. In the dying second Southall's Amos was put through, but was given offside as he slumped the ball in the net from 20 yards.

Southall: Walker; Nelhams, Hopkins; Warrilow, King, Smith; Waters, Sidey, Amos, Martin, Cruisey (Sub. Harrington).

Wycombe Wanderers: O'Brien; Stephenson, Gale; Delaney, Baker, Thomas; Faulkner, Hutchinson, Horseman, Searle, Blunt (Sub. Rundle (not used)).